

**Carl L. Sheline**  
**Mayor**

April 30, 2023

Senator Stacy Brenner, Chair  
Representative Lori Gramlich, Chair  
Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Maine State Legislature

RE: LD 1473, An Act to Protect Certain Unfiltered Drinking Water Sources

Dear Sen. Brenner, Rep. Gramlich and members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee:

I would like to voice my support for LD 1473. This bill will help protect bodies of water in Maine that possess a filtration waiver. This includes Lake Auburn, which supplies the drinking water for Lewiston.

While housing is a paramount concern, we need to prioritize watershed protection. Additional development in the land surrounding the lakes that provide our drinking water is shortsighted. Construction of any kind will result in destruction of natural growth and an increase in human activity and impervious surfaces that will inevitably lead to lake runoff. This runoff will aid the growth of algae contributing to a decrease in water quality. Over time, this will create the need for a filtration plant.

The best time to protect our natural resources is now. A proactive approach is necessary to avoid the surprise of a community losing their filtration waiver and the subsequent requirement of building an expensive filtration plant with considerable ongoing operating costs.

I appreciate Senator Margaret Rotundo for sponsoring this bill and the committee's time.

Sincerely,

Carl L. Sheline